

Appln. No. 10/029,326

Attorney Docket No. 10541-282

**II. Remarks**

In response to the Office Action mailed July 11, 2005, kindly enter the foregoing amendment and consider the following remarks. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.112, Applicant requests reconsideration of each and every ground of rejection set forth in the Office Action.

The Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. In this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 15 have been amended and claims 21-26 have been added. Thus claims 1-26 are pending and are at issue herein. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103**

Claims 1-3, 8-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Janik reference (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0164973) in view of the Dwyer reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,567).

First, the Office Action asserts that the Janik reference discloses a personal computer bus because the electronic components of unit 14 are functionally connected via a printed circuit board 118. Second, the Office Action notes that the Janik reference does not disclose that the personal computer network interface is adapted to facilitate the transfer of encoded audio files to an external storage device, but relies on the Dwyer reference for teaching of this feature.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Janik reference does not disclose a personal computer bus for transmitting data from the storage medium to the data expander and the audio output and from the storage medium to the network interface. The term "personal computer bus or PC bus" is a term well defined in the art. One dictionary definition is found at TheFreeDictionary.com (a copy attached) which states that a PC bus is the common pathway between the CPU and peripheral devices and gives several examples, such as a PCI bus. It is well known in the art that a printed circuit board is not the same or the equivalent of a personal computer bus.

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HOFER  
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The Applicant also directs the Examiner's attention to new dependent claims 23-25. These claims recite that a central processing unit is also connected to the personal computer bus in parallel with the data expander, that the data expander is directly connected to both the storage medium and the personal computer bus, and that the personal computer bus is a parallel bus connected to the storage medium, the data expander, the audio output, and the network interface. It is respectfully submitted that these features are also not disclosed in the cited references.

In addition to the foregoing, the Applicant notes that the Dwyer reference discloses a digital portable recorder 10 which is connected to a PC 16 by way of a simple cable 15, as described in column 3 of the reference. As shown in FIG. 1, the PC 16 may be connected to a network 24, however the recorder 10 itself does not become connected to the network. Thus, the Dwyer reference does not disclose transfer of files from device 10 over the network 24, unlike the present claims. Since the Dwyer reference does not even suggest the device 10 can be connected to the network 24, it seems a direct cable connection is preferred.

The Applicant also directs the Examiner's attention to dependent claims 21 and 22, which recite that the apparatus functions as a server on the network. Support for this feature can be found at paragraph 22 of the specification which notes that the central connection design allows the apparatus to efficiently function as a server on the network. It is respectfully submitted that these features are also not disclosed in the cited references.

For all these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of independent claims 1 and 11, as well as their dependent claims.

Claims 4-7, 12-13 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being unpatentable over the Janik reference in view of the Dwyer reference, and further in view of PC works. With regard to claims 4-7 and 12-13, these claims depend from independent claims 1 and 11, and therefore the remarks given above relating to the Janik and Dwyer references is reiterated here.

With regard to independent claim 15, the claim recites a network protocol adapted to allow other members of said network to access the storage medium when said apparatus is operating as an addressable member of a computer network, said

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apparatus functioning as a server on the network.

As noted above, the Dwyer reference simply discloses connection of a portable device 10 to a PC 16 through a direct cable connection 15 (column 10 of the Dwyer reference discloses other direct data connections such as RF link or infra red data communication (column 10, lines 55+)) but does not disclose connection of the device 10 to the network 24 and therefore excludes any such connection. Accordingly, the Dwyer reference does not disclose that the apparatus functions as a server on a computer network, and the Office Action has admitted that the Janik reference does not even disclose that the network interface is adapted to facilitate transfer of files from the storage means to an external storage device.

The Applicant also directs the Examiner's attention to dependent claim 26, which recites a personal computer bus for transmitting data from the storage medium to the data expander and the audio output and from the storage medium to the network interface. As discussed above with regard to independent claims 1 and 11, the cited references also failed to disclose this feature.

For all these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of independent claim 15, as well as its dependent claims.

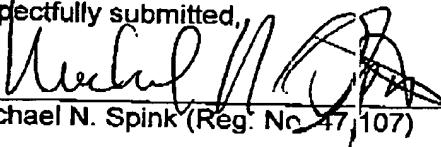
### CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is in order and that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the Attorney of the Applicant at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.

10/11/05

Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael N. Spink (Reg. No. 47,107)

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The bus in a PC is the common pathway between the CPU and peripheral devices. Parallel buses use slots on the motherboard and provide multiple lines for data (32 bits, 64 bits) between the CPU and peripheral card. Cards plug into the bus inside the cabinet. Serial buses have external ports, and the cable that plugs into them can connect to multiple devices. Following are the buses used in the PC:

## Parallel Buses (Current)

### PCI - Peripheral Component Interconnect

The PCI bus, available in 32- and 64-bit versions, is the most popular bus architecture. It is used in PCs as well as many other platforms. In 2002, PCI Express was introduced, providing greatly enhanced speeds. See [PCI](#) and [PCI Express](#).

### AGP - Accelerated Graphics Port

The 32-bit AGP bus was designed for faster screen display. If used, there is just one AGP slot on the motherboard, and only the display adapter plugs into it. See [AGP](#) and [display adapter](#).

## Serial Buses (Current)

### USB - Universal Serial Bus

One USB port connects up to 127 peripherals. The first version of USB was designed for low-speed peripherals, while USB 2.0 increased speed significantly. See [USB](#).

### FireWire (IEEE 1394)

FireWire connects up to 63 peripheral devices and has been mostly used for digital camera connections. See [FireWire](#).

## Parallel Buses (Earlier)

### ISA - Industry Standard Architecture

Pronounced "eye-suh," ISA stems from the original PC. It was an 8-bit bus originally known as the PC bus and then the XT bus. It was later extended to 16 bits and became the AT bus and eventually the ISA bus. See [ISA](#).

### EISA - Extended ISA

Pronounced "ee-suh," this bus was a 32-bit extension of ISA created by major vendors to counter IBM's Micro Channel. EISA slots accepted both EISA and ISA cards, but clock speed was still at the slow ISA rate. EISA was used in servers but later abandoned for PCI. See [EISA](#).

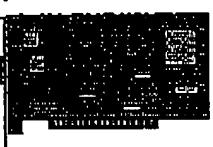
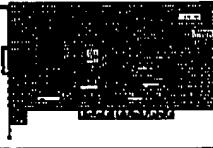
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### **Micro Channel (MCA)**

IBM switched to the 32-bit Micro Channel with its PS/2 line in 1987, then later added back ISA. Eventually, it gave up Micro Channel for PCI. See [Micro Channel](#).

### **VL-bus - VESA Local Bus**

The 32-bit VL-bus was introduced during the 486 era and offered higher speed than ISA. It then gave way to PCI. See [VL-bus](#).

PARALLEL PC BUSES			Bandwidth
	Bits	Speed	
<b>PCI</b> 	32 64	33MHz	
<b>AGP</b> 	32	66-533 MHz	
<b>ISA</b> 	8 16	8-10 MHz	
<b>EISA</b> 	32	8-10 MHz	
<b>Micro Channel</b> 	32	5-20 MHz	
<b>VL-bus</b> 	32	40MHz	

### **Types of Expansion Boards**

Of the six parallel bus types in this illustration, all have disappeared from new systems with the exception of PCI and

AGP.

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